



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PROPOSED PENAL REFORMS IN ENGLAND.

forced in the case of murder as the whipping-post is used in Delaware for various crimes, its deterrent effects would soon become manifest. It is idle to talk of anything but prompt punishment as a deterrent of crime.

"Thus, in New York City, in 1904, there were 147 first degree murders; but there were only 27 convictions and only two were executed. In the same year, in Philadelphia, 148 murder trials resulted in only 7 verdicts of murder in the first degree and several of these, on re-trial, received minor sentences. London, with 6,000,000 inhabitants, had 24 murders; 9 were hanged therefor. Chicago, with 2,000,000 inhabitants, had 128 murders; only 1 was hanged.

"Society has relaxed too much. The death penalty is a necessity and must not be abolished, else all discipline of society will be relinquished. Though society revolts at the old religious dogma of the retribution of hell, the church still retains it as essential in its terrible dissuading appeal to the imagination of men' (*New York Sun*). Let us, therefore, in our penology, adhere to what the test of time has proven to be an efficient check if only it be carried out as has been done in Germany and Great Britain."

Finally, he charges our inadequate legal machinery with responsibility for a large part of the crime now being committed.

"The tardy justice meted out to murderers," he declares, "is the most deplorable feature of our legal machinery to-day. There are too many loop-holes for escape—long delays, endless appeals, lots of slush about the 'unwritten law,' numerous legal technicalities and sentimental juries. By the pettifoggery of criminal law the great majority of cases are granted new trials in the United States; in Great Britain only 3.5 per cent. Nearly always the appeal is based upon points of pleading and practice and many years elapse before the final settlement of the case. Our administration of justice has degenerated into a sort of 'rose-water penology.' Its demoralizing effect upon the community is manifested by the rapid increase of crimes of violence among juveniles, so ready to imitate and emulate their seniors in crime. We have become too much accustomed to failure of justice in murder cases. This blot upon our civilization is largely the outcome of our indifference to the way many criminal courts are conducted. Certain magistrates make a farce out of serious business, lawyers wrangle with each other unchecked, witnesses are brow-beaten and bribery and corruption of political complexion degrade the proceedings to the level of a saloon or gambling den or a policy shop rather than a court of law." J. W. G.

Radical Penal Reforms Proposed in England.—Mr. Winston S. Churchill, in a speech in the British House of Commons on July 20, announced important improvements he intends to bring about in British prisons, and urged the passage of legislation which, if enacted, will effect highly beneficial reforms in the administration of criminal justice in the British Isles. Mr. Churchill, as Home Secretary, has given considerable study to the treatment of criminals, and being convinced that the methods hitherto in vogue have signally failed, he now desires to put in operation a program with reclamation as its keynote. His proposals, some of which go into operation immediately, and others of which will be developed within the coming year, include the following:

The more extended use of probation.

The granting to defendants of a period of grace in which to pay their fines without being committed for default of payment at the time of trial.

PRISON LABOR IN RHODE ISLAND.

The abolition of the system of ticket-of-leave, together with police supervision of convicts released from institutions.

The establishment of a central agency representing public authorities and prisoners' aid societies, which shall extend and regulate the supervision by prisoners' aid societies of prisoners released from institutions.

The establishment of a system of defaulters' drill (a system of disciplinary physical exercise) as a substitute for imprisonment in the case of lads from 16 to 21 years of age convicted of minor offenses.

The reduction of the maximum period of solitary confinement in prisons to one month.

More rational prison treatment for suffragettes and passive resisters.

The holding of quarterly concerts or lectures in jails.

Last year 90,000 persons, of whom over half were convicted of drunkenness, were committed to prison in default of payment of fines. Of these, 13,000 or 14,000 paid their fines in whole or in part after being imprisoned for a while. The governor of Wandsworth Prison has estimated that of 138 persons committed to that institution in a single week for non-payment of fines, at least 40 or 50 could have paid their fines in full if allowed the time and a chance to go to work. A bill will be introduced this autumn intended to do away with the present system of summary commitment of those who cannot pay their fines at the time of trial.

Mr. Churchill states that the Children's Act has worked admirably and has greatly reduced the number of juvenile commitments. He is desirous that every effort be used to save youths between 16 and 21 years of age from imprisonment. At least 5,000 youths are annually committed for rowdyism and similar petty offenses. Mr. Churchill advocates that as a substitute for commitment to jail, which can only be degrading, a system of defaulters' drill be instituted for this class of offenders. He advocates that this drill, which should not be of a military character, be developed as a disciplinary branch of the probation system.

In his speech before Parliament, in discussing the treatment of youths, Mr. Churchill laid down these principles:

"No youth should go to prison unless he has shown himself incorrigible or has committed a serious offense.

"No youth ought to receive any sentence which has not a definite curative and educative character. It should never be a purely punitive sentence.

"The sending of boys to prison for three, four or ten days for offenses which might perfectly well be settled outside the prison gates, has all the evils of sending them to prison for a long period."

Mr. Churchill gives statistics showing that of the 4,000 convicts released from jail during the four years from 1901 to 1904, about 3,000 have already been re-committed.

A. W. T.

Prison Labor in Rhode Island.—The National Free Labor Association, of 832 Broadway, New York, has published a pamphlet criticising the Rhode Island method of disposing of its convict labor. The inmates of the state penitentiary and of the Providence county jail are employed in the manufacture of workmen's shirts under a contract with the "Prison Labor Trust," which pays the state only thirty cents per dozen for shirts manufactured, while the cost of making the same shirts outside of prisons is not less than \$1.20 a dozen, exclusive of rent, power, heat, light, etc. The very same corporation, we are told, pays the state of Wisconsin 85 cents a day for the labor of its convicts. Missouri receives 70